

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact:**Barbara Phillips, Public Affairs Specialist
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New Priorities Set for 2007 Program**

October 12, 2006 – Applicants for 2007 funding through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) should apply by close of business October 27, 2006, at their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. WHIP is offered to landowners and land managers who want to improve or develop fish and wildlife habitat on non-federal lands. A priority area, three priority habitats and one priority species have been established for the 2007 program in New Jersey.

The WHIP priority area covers the Delaware Bay counties of Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem. This area hosts globally important habitat for many migratory wildlife species. The three selected priority habitats for the 2007 program are early successional habitat, wetland habitat, and disturbance-dependent habitat. The priority species is the Bog Turtle. Wildlife habitat enhancement projects that support these five priorities may be eligible for funding and technical assistance in 2007 through WHIP.

Program details for 2007 are available online at <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/> or from the local NRCS office that serves your community.

NRCS office locations are provided below and are listed on the NRCS website:

<http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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Serving Mercer, Middlesex & Monmouth
Freehold- (732)462-0075X3

Serving Hunterdon, Somerset & Union
Frenchtown-(908)782-4614X3

Serving Morris, Sussex, & Warren
Hackettstown-(908)852-2576 X3

Serving Burlington, Camden, & Ocean
Hainesport-(609)267-0811 X3

Serving Atlantic, Cape May, & Cumberland
Vineland-(856)205-1225X3

Serving Gloucester & Salem
Woodstown-(856)769-1126X3

Serving Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic
Somerset—(732) 537-6057
(co-located with NRCS State Office)